

Sheriff's Office City of Salem

A Culture of Caring.....



.....A Tradition of Service

2013 IN REVIEW
ERIC A. ATKINS, SHERIFF



SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITY OF SALEM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheriff Eric Atkins

FR: Major David Rorer
Chief Deputy

DA: January 31, 2014

RE: ANNUAL REPORT

With regard to VLEPSC Standard ADM.20.02 that mandates a report be prepared and made available for public review concerning agency statistics and activities, the following information is provided for the fulfillment of this standard.

The Sheriff's Office of the City of Salem is a criminal justice agency, constitutionally authorized, to provide security to the Courts, its collateral and supportive offices, courthouse facilities; service of all papers originating from the Courts; secure transportation of persons in custody to include inmates of local correctional facilities; transportation of persons in custody under mental health orders.

Preface

MISSION STATEMENT

Appendix WORKLOAD MEASURES 2013

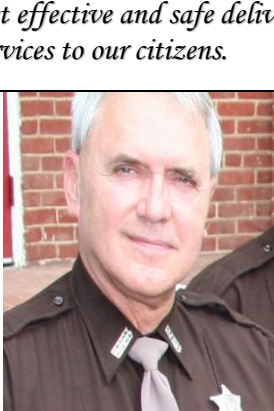
Cover page: Display cabinet at Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy featuring the artifacts of the City of Salem Sheriff's Office

Our Mission

We, the professional men and women of the Salem City Sheriff's Office, are empowered to defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Through courtesy, care, trust, and commitment, we will work diligently to provide the most effective and safe delivery of court services to our citizens.





Start of a Routine Day, in all actuality, its never routine! Early morning inspection of staff by (left) Lt. Huffman; (center) Deputy Herndon conducts and inmate search prior to entering the courthouse; (right) Deputy Pruitt is engaged in deep thought at a crisis incident training class

2013 IN BRIEF

As the sports commentators remark so frequently, *“the game is now in the books.”* Such is true with the operational year 2013 for the City of Salem Sheriff’s Office. All assignments have been successfully fulfilled; 697 sessions of court have been staffed and secured without incident; over 57,000 miles have been accumulated in the safe transport of persons in custody without accident or injury. This is not an achievement by happenstance. It is the result of careful preparation, systematic execution of planning and painstaking adherence to established policy. And in the words of Sheriff Atkins, *“exceptional performance based upon a consistent diet of superlative training.”*

Most significantly for the Office, re-accreditation was successfully achieved with a perfect “no-return” tally. What this means is that highly trained and experienced professionals from outside of the Salem Sheriff’s Office reviewed over 700 points of operational function as mandated for a law enforcement agency to be accredited- this under the auspices of the **Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission**. There were no errors, no infractions, with all mandates met or exceeded. This is consistent with *“the Salem Way.”*

2013 will be remembered as a year of slow recovery from the economic downturns of the previous years. The application of cost saving strategies in light of adversity has produced a positive outcome within the Sheriff’s Office. Through the support of a gracious city management and the wise utilization of funds, operational objectives have been met to include a promotion and pay adjustments for some deputies.

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Focus upon training and the acquisition of “the right” equipment is a formula for success in any endeavor. Sheriff Atkins annually directs the entire agency to engage in continued skill development with emphasis upon deputy safety, legal issues and equipment certification.

To support this initiative, Sheriff Atkins serves on both the Governing Council and the Executive Board of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA).



Sheriff Eric A. "Ric" Atkins



CCJA has 36 member agencies and trains over 3,000 students per year. The purpose of the Academy is to provide entry-level, in-service and specialized training to law enforcement, jailor, courtroom security, civil process and dispatcher personnel employed by member agencies. A tremendous advantage is gained for the Sheriff's Office by having its training academy "in town"- thus avoiding lodging costs and other travel expenses.

The Sheriff's Office has on staff five Virginia Department of Criminal Justice certified instructors with the following specializations: *firearms; emergency vehicle operation; emergency medical first responder/CPR/AED; intermediate weapons; general instructors*. Periodically, in-house training covering a variety of topics is presented by the Office instructors. In July 2013 one of the most significant in-house training events centered upon the new curriculum for flying while armed and handling air transportation of persons in custody.



Deputy Ferguson assists Major Rorer in the presentation of training on the topic of "flying while armed".



Dr. Tod Burke and Dr. Stephen Owen with Sheriff Atkins at the 2013 Training Day Event held at the River's. The distinguished scholars are nationally recognized in the field of criminal justice. Photo at right - Staff appointees absorb instruction.

During the month of January, all appointees of the Sheriff's Office participate in a special training event which brings in trainers/speakers from outside of the Office. The main topic of the 2013 event was **"Security Considerations in the Transportation of Inmates"**. The training was facilitated by Dr. Tod Burke and Dr. Stephen Owen, Professors of Criminal Justice at Radford University. A comprehensive analysis of Sheriff's Office practices as they relate to the handling of persons in custody was discussed with appropriate suggestions made by the guest trainers. The event was held on January 14, 2013 at the beautiful River Course Complex in Radford.



Master Deputy Sarah Duffy practices "dry fire" technique to improve her skill; Major Rorer scores Duffy's "live fire" target.

Annual firearms training and re-qualifications were held on October 10, 2013. Training scenarios centered upon simulated "unusual occurrences" in the operation of the courthouse. The event was held under the supervision of Major Rorer assisted by Deputy Chris Blomberg at the Paul Price Firing Range. In addition to field exercises, classroom instruction was provided concerning agency policies relative to the use of force. All appointees successfully achieved re-qualification.

Throughout the year, members of the Sheriff's Office attended a variety of training seminars. Deputies requiring mandated re-certification through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services participated in and successfully completed all training requirements during year as well. The majority of course credits were earned through training at the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem. Additionally, every member of the Sheriff's Office is certified as a first responder to medical emergency.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

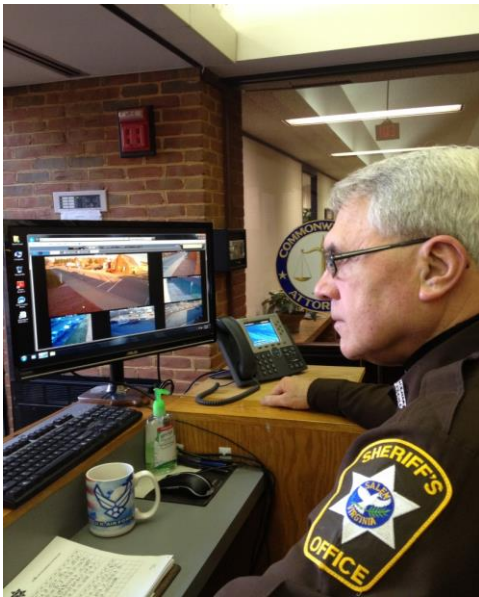


2/5/2014 12:52:27 17 drorer@city.salem.int
Circuit Court Office(10.60.35.52) @ Default Location

THE VALUE OF VIDEO: *footage capturing a wanted person's attempt to flee custody from two undercover police officers. The images were successfully used in the suspect's prosecution and put to rest any claim of excessive force that could be raised.*

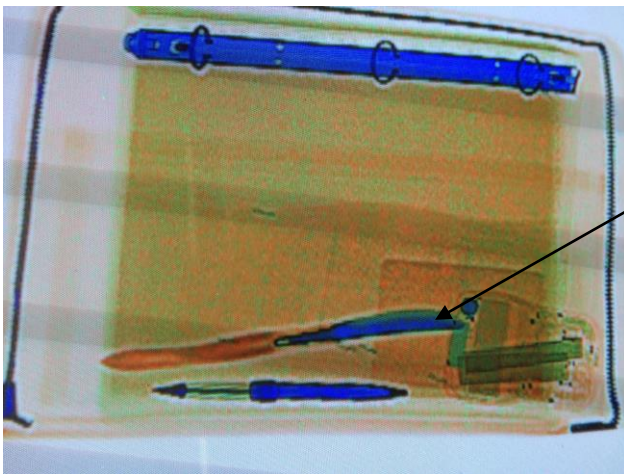
One of the most important functions incumbent upon the Office of Sheriff is to ensure the safety of all persons utilizing the facility and furthermore, to administer security procedures involving courthouse operation. The Salem Courthouse was equipped with a state of the art security camera system in 2011 utilizing the latest digital technologies. For the first time in the history of the operation of the Courthouse, a comprehensive platform of security cameras capable of monitoring

audio and storing data for later review is in full operation. The camera system has aided our sister agency, the Salem Police Department in several criminal prosecutions. In 2013, a homeland security grant provided funding for the installation of a pan-tilt-zoom camera to increase coverage capabilities over the primary courthouse parking lot. This addition has already proven its value in the protection of persons and property.



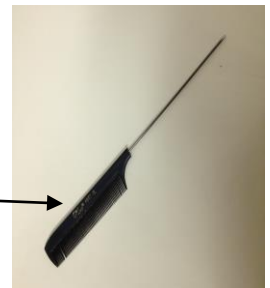
"The Eagle on His Perch"

Deputy Stephen G. Ferguson maintains vigilance at the main entrance checkpoint. All persons having business within the Courthouse Complex pass through this entrance way and are subject to scrutiny for any item that may be utilized as a weapon. Cellular telephones banned from the courthouse in 2011 still present a problem for staff, and particularly for those who fail to heed numerous signs posted around the perimeter of the building. Below are a few examples of items that were detected during the past year.



Sheathed steak knife detected in a lady's handbag

Men's' comb altered into a dangerous weapon; interdicted at Courthouse



NOTABLE TRIALS - 2013

Intensive focus is given by Sheriff's Office staff in preparation for the various categories of hearings and trials. Security planning for a trial insures the comfort level of persons to include victims, witnesses, the judiciary and other officers of the court. Factors that garner close attention include but are not limited to attendees and observers in the courtrooms (gallery), food provisions for jurors and inmates, transportation issues, restraints and media coverage of a trial. Each category must be evaluated to identify any potential risk factor. With this level of scrutiny and advance planning, risks are minimized and courts are able to function at the highest levels of efficiency.



Pre-planning is the key to a successful outcome as it applies to security during a court proceeding. Lieutenant Michael Huffman is supervisor in charge of the courts security management. This task covers judicial security, inmate transportation as well as direction of deputies. In this photo, a high risk proceeding is discussed and assignments made to the staff appointees who will serve in that event.

During 2013, several highly publicized cases were prosecuted in the City of Salem. Many work hours were expended by Sheriff's Office staff in security planning and arrangement for these high risk or significantly publicized trials. Throughout the entire course of proceedings, Salem Sheriff's Deputies effected elevated security protocols and as a result, no incidences of violence or other criminal acts transpired.



ERIC THOMAS MALLORY



DEWAYNE BARGER

A former Roanoke County volunteer firefighter was sentenced to serve 19 years in prison after being convicted of sexually molesting two teenage girls. Eric Thomas Mallory, 32, entered Alford pleas in Salem Circuit Court on Aug. 29 to two indecent liberties charges and three counts of crimes against nature. The pleas mean that Mallory did not admit guilt, but acknowledged that the evidence would likely lead to his conviction.

Judge William Broadhurst sentenced Mallory to 70 years in prison, suspended after Mallory serves 19 years. The judge sentenced Mallory to five years on each indecent liberties conviction, suspended after two years, and 20 years on each crimes against nature conviction, suspended after five years.

Through a plea agreement, Dewayne Barger, a former high school volleyball coach was found guilty of secretly filming nearly 20 teenage girls as they changed clothes. The girls were invited by Barger to try on uniforms at a Salem church; unknown to them the defendant had secreted a mini camera to record the girls in various stages of undress. An additional known victim not involved with volleyball, Barger's former fiancé's teenage sister, was filmed a number of times as she bathed at the couple's home.

Barger, 37, faced up to 105 years in prison on the 21 charges. He was sentenced on December 19 to 42 years in prison, suspended after he serves a term of eight years and three months in prison. Upon his release, he'll be on probation for ten years.

Barger spoke before the judge, apologizing to the victims and their parents for the grief he's caused. The plea agreement will spare the 18 victims, ranging from 13 to 17 years in age, from having to testify at a trial.



JASPER REED JACKSON

Salem Circuit Court Judge William Broadhurst has ordered a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether Jasper Reed Jackson is competent to stand trial as the defendant in a homicide which occurred in the City of Salem. Jackson is charged in the death of 35-year-old Damian Wright of Roanoke, who was found Sept. 20 with a gunshot wound to the head. Officers found Wright lying in the parking lot of the Oak Park Apartments in the 100 block of Otter Avenue just after 9:30 p.m. Prosecutors have said the shooting stemmed from a drug deal gone bad.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Marshall Deaton asked Judge Broadhurst to admonish Jackson's family members who she said had attempted to "harass, threaten and intimidate" witnesses. Broadhurst said if he heard reports of any inappropriate behavior regarding witnesses — not just from Jackson's family — "it'll be dealt with before me, for sure." Jackson is scheduled for a three-day trial on the murder charge and two other felonies in late March 2014. He has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

CARE AND CONFINEMENT OF PERSONS IN CUSTODY

The cost of care and confinement of persons remanded to the custody of the Sheriff is the single most costly expense associated with Office operations. As state government continues to minimize its responsibilities and contributions to local corrections, localities are left with few options as to footing the bill for the ever growing costs of jail operation. The City of Salem owns in partnership with Roanoke County, 22.72% interest in the operation of the **Roanoke County/Salem Jail**. The City is also a partner with Franklin, Montgomery and Roanoke Counties in the operation of the **Western Virginia Regional Jail** located near Dixie Caverns.



THE WESTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL, SALEM, VIRGINIA

FAST FACT: *In 2013, Salem Sheriff's personnel placed over 1500 inmates in the Western Virginia Regional Jail.*

In order to minimize the costs of incarceration, Sheriff Atkins has continued to direct the ***"City of Salem Sheriff's Office Volunteer Workforce Program."*** This program has provided opportunity to offenders to apply their personal skills and labor to a variety of work tasks in the City of Salem in lieu of fulfilling a jail sentence. In operation since July 1, 2010, the program to date has generated well **over 3500 hours of labor** as applied to city departments such as the Courthouse, Civic Center, Parks and Recreation and others. On the basis of US minimum wage, this would calculate to **at least \$25,000** of labor cost savings to the City. As a viable alternative to completing jail sentences, statistics indicate taxpayer savings of well over \$10,000 in per diem costs. Interestingly, several of the participants in the workforce program have been hired as permanent employees of the City of Salem due to their energy and proven skill in the assigned job area.

The safe and timely delivery of the incarcerated to court appearances is one of the many responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff. During the year 2013, Salem Sheriff's deputies completed over 1,800 transports of persons in custody and those under authority of civil committal.

SPECIAL PROJECTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Sheriff's Office provides support, by personal donation and/or professional services to some very worthy causes; *Salem High School After-Prom Event* and the *Needlework Guild*.

During the late evening of May 11, deputies were assigned to security and enforcement duties at the Homer Bast Coliseum (Roanoke College) location of the *Salem High School After-Prom* party for students. Under the direct supervision of Major Rorer, the deputies were tasked with the responsibility of providing security for the event. Attendees enjoy a late night of fun and entertainment in a safe, secure and healthy venue. This provision of service helps to alleviate the "myriad of concerns" of Salem parents. The mission will again be carried out in 2014.

The Salem Needlework Guild is a benevolent non-profit organization which seeks to lend assistance in the form of school clothing to Salem's needy youth. During the fall of 2013 funds were raised to provide new clothing needs of two deserving Salem students, a boy and a girl. Appointees of the Sheriff's Office donated their spare lunch change over the course of the year and raised over \$400 for the cause.



VLEPSC Assessment Team - from left Captain Matthew Carter, City of Danville Police Department; Lieutenant Troy Imler, Warren County Sheriff's Office and Corporal Cathy Clark, City of Danville Sheriff's Office

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS

On March 4-6, the Sheriff's Office underwent an exhaustive inspection and evaluation by a team of assessors from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. The purpose of law enforcement accreditation is to improve the quality and delivery of services to the public as it pertains to criminal justice. The Virginia program addresses 190 professional standards that require 100% compliance with over 700 individual points that are deemed to be the best practices for police departments and sheriff's offices across the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Security camera placement and policy is explained to the VLEPSC assessment team by Major Rorer. A veteran assessor himself, Rorer has served on 23 accrediting events for other law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth.

During the event, the Sheriff's Office was found to be in compliance with all program standards, many of which were determined to be consistent with a superlative level of performance. The formal presentation of the certificate of reaccreditation was made before a session of Salem City Council in April of 2013. The Office initially earned accredited status in 2005 and was re-accredited under Sheriff Atkins' administration in 2009.

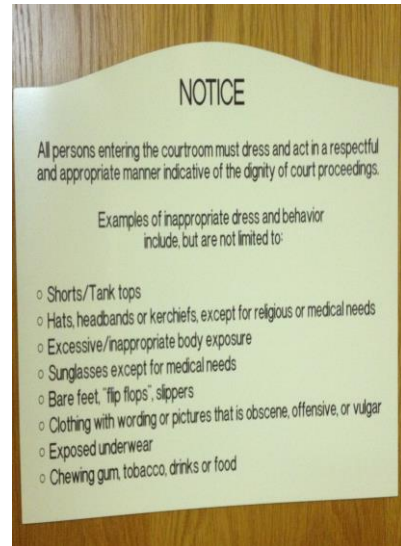
Sheriff Atkins serves as an executive board member on the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC).

With regard to regulatory matters, the Sheriff's Office undergoes two annual audits of its practices and procedures as they involve the collection of proceeds from levies, distress warrants and paper service fees. The CPA firm of **Brown Edwards** conducted the first of the audits in the month of September for purposes of collecting data for the **Comprehensive Annual Finance Report**. This report details the financial health of the municipal government of the City of Salem. The second report, which was completed in November, was performed by the State Auditor of Public Accounts. In both audits, the Salem Sheriff's Office received an excellent report and great praise for its consistency and accuracy in the handling of public funds.

In the fulfillment of its mission, the Sheriff's Office lends assistance to other departments of the City of Salem to include the other constitutional offices. During the statewide and local elections of 2013, appointees of the Sheriff performed patrols of the various polling stations in Salem. Following Election Day, at the request of the City Registrar, deputies secured the reports of balloting and transported them to the Clerk of the Court for official filing.



"Pony Express" delivery of reports of balloting delivered courtesy of the Salem Sheriff's Office by Deputy Logan Pruett



New signage for 2013 which reiterates the dress code for attendance of courtroom proceedings



The Honorable R. P. "Pat" Doherty

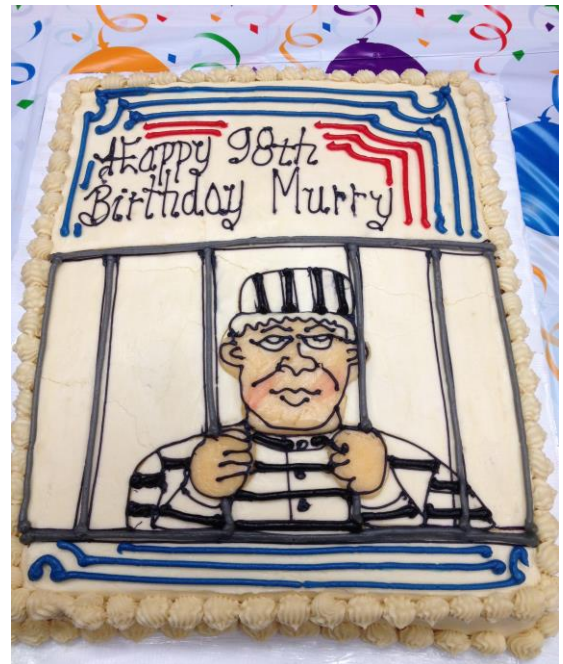
After 18 years of dedicated service, Judge Robert "Pat" Doherty Jr. retired from the Circuit Court bench on March 1, 2013. Judge Doherty presided over hundreds of serious felony trials in the 23rd Judicial Circuit. He was known as "being tough, but fair minded." The Judge's intentions are to spend more time with his family,

particularly his wonderful grandchildren. He and Mrs. Doherty also plan to travel extensively. The judge has always enjoyed a great relationship with the Salem Sheriff's Office. During a retirement reception, Sheriff Atkins praised the judge for "looking at us as courthouse security specialists and assisting us in that endeavor; more importantly to us he will be remembered as a friend to our office and staff."

And with the happy events there must come some sad ones too; Murry White, a dedicated court watcher, popular Salem resident and friend to all criminal justice employees, passed away on March 31, 2013 after suffering two massive strokes. He was 98 years old. Weeks prior to his death, a birthday celebration was held in his honor in the courthouse.



Murry White



Murry's 98th birthday cake

Mr. White's service was performed by Major J. David Rorer, of the Sheriff's Office and is also an ordained Baptist minister. On his final journey to Sherwood Memorial Park, local law enforcement officers including Sergeant April Staton, Master Deputy Steven Garber and Deputy Stephen Ferguson of the Salem Sheriff's Office carried him to his place of rest.

Murry is greatly missed.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2014

Optimism is prevalent as the new year 2014 opens. The local economy is showing positive signs of recovery, albeit in "baby steps". As in the previous years this office will continue to pursue state and federal grants to provide for equipment and technology needs.

Without a doubt, there will be some daunting challenges for the City of Salem Sheriff's Office. Every session of the Virginia General Assembly affects the city and its constitutional offices. For the 2014 General Assembly session, major issues such as mental health care, and custody of persons held on mental health orders will be at the forefront of attention. The resulting decisions made by legislators will have a direct impact upon the way deputies and other Virginia law enforcement personnel will perform their duties.



Skill development through training will continue to be the main focus for improving the capabilities of all members of the City of Salem Sheriff's Office. Regardless of circumstances, the Office under the direction of **Sheriff Atkins** is prepared to engage in any security/law enforcement mission placed upon it; the professional staff are ready to serve with dedication and the best of intentions so as to bring about positive fulfillment in all that is done.

For additional information, please check our website at:

www.salemva.gov

*click on Departments;
scroll down to Sheriff's Office*



CITY OF SALEM

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Workload Measures Data for 2013

| <i>Service of Court Papers</i> | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Levies executed | 20 |
| Writ of Possessions (Fieri Facias) | 145 |
| Subpoenas served | 9,856 |
| Jury summons served | 766 |
| Temporary Detention Orders served | 24 |
| Criminal warrants served | 1 |
| Other civil process served | 12,556 |
| | |
| TOTAL SERVICES | 23,203 |
| | |
| <i>Collections</i> | |
| Fees and Commissions | \$ 1,609.00 |
| Collections on Levies | 131,895.13 |
| Sheriff's Sales | -0- |
| Total Money handled and disbursed | \$ 133,504.13 |
| | |
| REMITTED TO TREASURER | \$ 133,371.33 |

| <i>Courts Worked</i> | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Circuit Court | 215 |
| General District Court | 300 |
| Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court | 182 |
| TOTAL SESSIONS | 697 |

| <i>Transportation</i> | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Inmate court appearances | 970 |
| Juvenile court appearances | 105 |
| Inmate medical events | 20 |
| Mental patient transports | 29 |
| Juvenile mental patient transports | 6 |
| TOTAL TRANSPORTS | 1130 |
| TOTAL MILEAGE | 57,098 miles |
| | |
| <i>Extraditions</i> | |
| Extraditions (out of state) | 3 |
| | |

| <i>Custody</i> | |
|---|------|
| Persons taken into custody from court | 252 |
| Number placed in Roanoke County/Salem Jail | 1298 |
| Number placed in Western Virginia Regional Jail | 1521 |

| <i>Deputy Accidents/Injuries</i> | |
|---|-----|
| Consecutive days without a lost time accident | 365 |
| Vehicular accidents | 0 |



City of Salem Sheriff's Office

Eric A. Atkins, Sheriff

2 East Calhoun Street

Salem, Virginia 24153